

The Breeze

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Debating their vote

Many students left undecided after final presidential face-off

By **KELSEY BECKETT**
The Breeze

After Monday night's final presidential debate, many students were still left questioning which candidate won their vote.

"It helped a lot," freshman George Bridgforth said about the debate. "But it also added more questions."

Bridgforth attended the debate viewing hosted by the Madison Debate Society in Harrison Hall. During the event, students sat together and watched the debate between President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney. The group then had a discussion about it, led by Aaron Nolan, co-adviser to Madison Debate Society and communications studies professor.

About 150 to 200 people (many outside of the organization) have showed up to each of the four debate viewings the organization has held this semester, Nolan said.

Noland added that it's not uncommon for students to be unsure about who they're voting for after watching the debate, especially if they haven't been following the campaigns.

"I think they walk away maybe more confused than they started," Nolan said. "This may be the first time they're getting engaged in the political system."

Noland also thinks many students who are voting for the first time are confused by the influx of information because they aren't sure what's true and what isn't.

"When they hear a candidate say something appealing and then hear the response from the other candidate that is also appealing, they're left wondering which of these are true, first of all, and which one of these things do [they] most identify with," Noland said.

But other students are confident in their vote. Heather Funkhouser, a freshman intelligence analysis major, knew she would vote for Romney.

"I think that President Obama had his chance to kind of make his change, and he hasn't done a very good job of it," Funkhouser said. "Romney's got a record of being a very successful businessman, and I think that if he focuses on America as a business, it will help us out."

Even though some controversial topics were discussed during the debate such as last month's attack in Libya that killed four Americans, including the U.S. Ambassador to Libya, students focused their discussions more on how the candidates presented themselves.

A few students thought Obama was too harsh, especially in his rebuttal to Romney about his proposed \$2 trillion increase in military spending.

"I think that Gov. Romney maybe hasn't spent enough time looking at how our military works," Obama said in the debate. "The Navy, for example, we have fewer ships than 1916. We also have fewer horses and bayonets, because our military has changed. We have these things called aircraft carriers, where planes land on them."

One student who spoke during the discussion believes that Obama's comment may have helped him win the debate and the election, while another student thought it misrepresented the Navy.

see **DEBATE**, page 4

Woman allegedly raped, robbed in Hunters Ridge

Sexual assault response center says the violence of Saturday's crime is 'extremely uncommon'

By **JEN EYRING and ALISON PARKER**
The Breeze

Harrisonburg police arrested two 16 year-olds on Saturday for reportedly violently raping and robbing a woman, according to Lt. Chris Rush.

Around 1 a.m., officers responded to the 1400 block of Hunters Ridge Condominiums.

Brandon Valentin and Darien Vasquez are charged with breaking into a 22-year-old woman's home and robbing and repeatedly raping her multiple times at knifepoint, according to the *Daily News-Record*.

Vasquez is charged with 17 felonies, including two counts of rape, four counts of forcible sodomy, armed robbery and abduction. Valentin is charged with 13 felonies, including rape, principal in the second degree to rape, armed robbery and abduction.

Officers found that the two offenders have been targeting homes with unlocked windows and doors.

Police took them to the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Detention Center in Verona, where they're now being held. Both suspects are from Harrisonburg and are expected to appear in court Nov. 6. Prosecution

is aiming to try them as adults, the *DN-R* said.

This is the fourth sexual assault and second rape reported this semester. Police haven't reported that any of the perpetrators outside of Saturday's crime have been found.

This isn't a surprising number, according to Rhoda Miller, family advocate at the Collins Center, a sexual assault response and treatment center. But she did say that Saturday's crime is "extremely uncommon" because of its violent nature and the fact that it was also a robbery.

"I've been working here for a little over three years, and I've never seen anything like this before," she said.

Most sexual assaults don't involve weapons or even force, Miller said. It's also unusual for victims to be sexually assaulted by strangers, as more than 90 percent of victims are assaulted by people they know.

Since the assault, Hunter's Ridge residents have heightened their own security measures.

Greg Lucatorto, who lives on the 1400 block of Bradley Drive, said he and his roommates have made an

see **ASSAULT**, page 4

BIRDSONG IN, THORPE OUT

SATURDAY AT RICHMOND



MICHAEL BIRDSONG

True freshman
6'4" 225 lbs.

TOTAL TIME OF POSSESSION

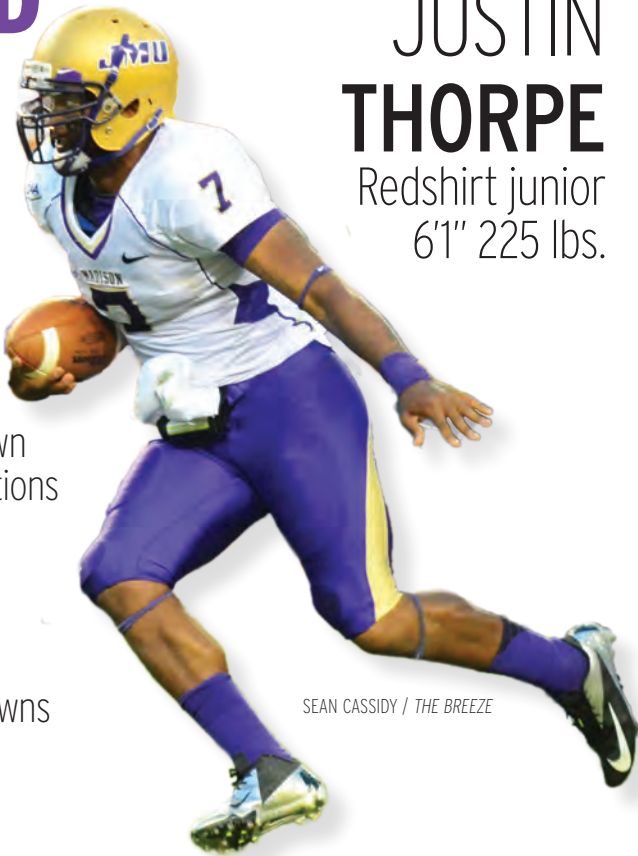
7:13 | 20:40

PASSING

11-22	8-13
159 yards	142 yards
1 touchdown	1 touchdown
0 interceptions	2 interceptions

RUNNING

7 rushes	15 rushes
73 yards	36 yards
1 touchdown	0 touchdowns



JUSTIN THORPE

Redshirt junior
6'1" 225 lbs.

SEAN CASSIDY / THE BREEZE

Freshman Michael Birdsong supplants Justin Thorpe as starting quarterback

By **WAYNE EPPS JR.**
The Breeze

True freshman Michael Birdsong will start over Justin Thorpe for the remainder of the season — a decision head coach Mickey Matthews made just three weeks after Thorpe received his sixth year of eligibility.

"I didn't expect it, to be honest," Thorpe said. "I don't think anybody expected it. Coach Matthews said it was a gut feeling. But it's football — nothing stays the same."

Matthews said Saturday's game cemented the final decision.

"We just felt like [Birdsong] gave us the best chance of winning," Matthews said. "I had a strong feeling after the game, but then when I reviewed the tape on Sunday when we graded the tape, it was an easy decision for me."

With the team down 28-10 in the third quarter on Saturday and scoreless since the first

quarter, redshirt junior Thorpe was benched in favor of Birdsong.

Thorpe's last play was a fourth down-and-one situation in which he decided to keep the ball and didn't get the first down, turning the ball over on downs.

"The term would've been 'lethargic' offensively for the last three weeks," Matthews said. "I had not been happy with the level of play offensively. And Birdsong had really been practicing good. His improvement was dramatic in practice."

Thorpe is technically a fifth-year senior but is listed as a redshirt junior because of the sixth year of eligibility he was awarded on Oct. 1. He originally became the team's starter in 2009 as a redshirt freshman. He's remained the starter on and off since, battling injury and last season's five-game suspension.

After being taken out of the game Saturday,

Thorpe wasn't happy and showed that on the sidelines. The team captain now regrets those actions.

"I was pretty upset," Thorpe said. "But I responded completely out of character. I showed a little bit too much emotion."

Birdsong immediately sparked JMU's offense on Saturday, leading the Dukes on three scoring drives and coming within one touchdown of winning the game.

In the five drives Birdsong was a part of, he had 11 pass completions on 22 attempts for 159 yards and a touchdown. He also had 73 yards rushing and a touchdown on the ground.

Birdsong's career debut came in the third quarter against St. Francis on Sept. 1 with the team leading 34-0. Saturday will mark Birdsong's first collegiate start.

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Panther preparation
Dukes will take on one-win Georgia State this Homecoming Weekend.



SEAN CASSIDY / THE BREEZE



Friday
mostly cloudy
72°/54°



Saturday
cloudy
63°/46°



Sunday
light showers
52°/37°

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GI Anthony-Seeger Hall, MSC 6805
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, Va. 22807
PHONE: 540-568-6127
FAX: 540-568-6736

MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
TORIE FOSTER

breezeeeditor@gmail.com

NEWS DESK

breezenews@gmail.com

LIFE DESK

breezearts@gmail.com

SPORTS DESK

breezesports@gmail.com

OPINION DESK

breezepinion@gmail.com

COPY DESK

breezecopy@gmail.com

PHOTO/GRAPHICS

breezephotography@gmail.com

breezegraphics@gmail.com

VIDEO

breezevideo@gmail.com

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

540-568-6127

ADS MANAGER

Brandon Lawlor

ASST. ADS MANAGER

Will Bungarden

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Anthony Frederick

ASST. CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Zack Owen

AD EXECUTIVES

Caleb Dessalgne

Rachel Ferrell

Mat Lesiv

Matt Malinowski

Ethan Miller

Brianna Therkelsen

Michael Wallace

MARKETING & CIRCULATION

COORDINATOR

Laura Russo

AD DESIGNERS

Catherine Barsanti

Sydney McKenney

Elizabeth Paterson



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horoscopes



SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Emotions add
extra drive. Follow

a hunch, but be respectful and
cautious. Private connections
lead to profits.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Clean up at home.
Be very careful of

sharp objects. Don't take what
you have for granted. Remember
your old experiences.



CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You have more
than expected.

Watch out for breakage, however.
Friends ask your advice, so give
it. Completion is key.



AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

An escape attempt
now will probably

fail. Focus instead on making
money, even if it seems boring. It
requires doing the homework.



PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

You can do more
than you thought.

Focus on creating income, and
cut entertainment spending.
You're rewarded for your loyalty.



ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

Someone provides
an important

contact. Details hamper
advancement. Discipline is
required, but if anybody can do
it, it's you now.



TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

Spiritual senses
awaken. Focus on

love and friendship, and you can
get farther than ever before.



GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

Odds are good
there's something
you don't know.

Follow through with your
promises, regardless. Catch up on
all the news.



CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

Potentially
hazardous

conditions threaten. Stick to your
budget, and postpone household
chores. Let somebody else argue.



LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

Don't try to pay
everyone's way. Pay

attention to details to increase
your capabilities. Assume
authority. Work smart.



VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Exceptional
patience will be

required. Stop and smell the
roses for a spiritual lift. Don't
forget what's important.



LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Be super productive
at work now so that

you have more time to play
later. It's important to follow the
protocol, even as you add your
personal touch.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

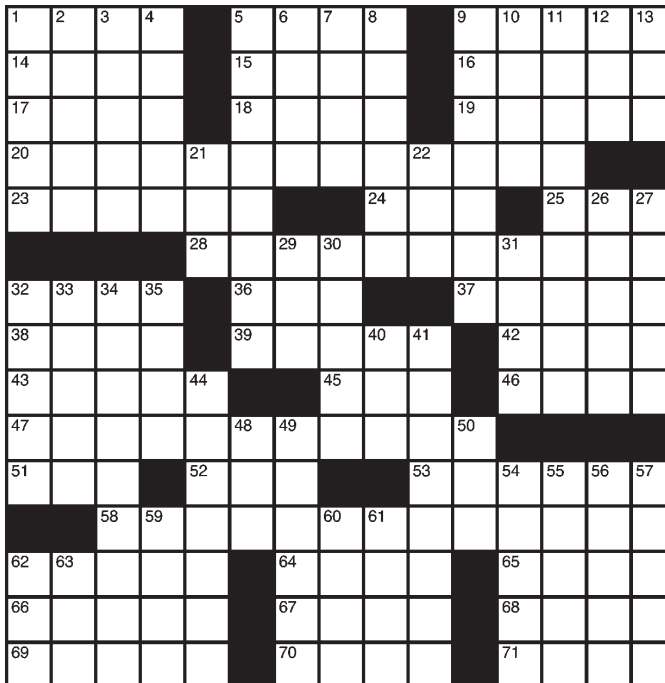
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- The grand concert one has 47 strings
- Teen hangout
- poll
- French possessive
- Chills and fever
- "The Voice" judge Green
- Holdup device?
- Party person
- Communications device
- Question cards in their cups?
- Response to "Are you serious?"
- Gardner of old films
- Wow
- Burden beasts of burden?
- Western landscape feature
- Vessel designation
- Weigh station visitors
- New Testament book
- Variable-yield investment option
- Passed-down tales
- CBS newswoman O'Donnell
- Summer baby
- Termini
- Stumble over plumbing gunk?
- Brahms's A?
- View from Marseille
- To-do
- Proper sort ... or a cry upon solving each of this puzzle's theme answers?
- Canceled a reservation, maybe
- Waikiki's whereabouts
- Yankee great, familiarly, with "The"
- Window box bloom
- "Exodus" novelist
- US Open stadium

DOWN

- "Satisfied now?"
- "_ friend unbosoms freely ...": Penn
- Innkeeper's offerings
- Longstocking of kiddie lit
- Hawaiian for "very strong"
- All atwitter
- Thick with vegetation
- Super-harmful
- Serious argument components
- Colorful duck
- North Pacific sockeye
- Woodcutter Baba
- Seek favor with
- Feasts on
- Garden outcast
- Strange and then some
- Pluralizers
- Society honoree
- Waggish
- Ubangi tributary



By Elizabeth A. Long

10/25/12

- Post with carvings
- Passé demo item
- Scholarship factor

Monday's puzzle solved

M	R	S	U	L	U		O	T	I	S		B	A	S
A	A	A	M	A	P		Z	I	N	C		O	P	T
M	I	X	A	N	D	M	A	T	C	H		R	P	I
A	L	E				I	O	W	A		E	W	E	L
			M	A	K	E	A	N	D	M	O	D	E	L
E	Q	U	A	T	E				O	E	N	O		
R	U	S	S	O		D	O	O	R			W	M	D
M	I	C	K	E	Y	A	N	D	M	I	N	N	I	E
A	Z	O			O	B	O	E			N	O	O	K
			N	A	S	D				B	R	U	N	E
M	I	G	H	T	A	N	D	M	A	I	N			
A	T	R	I	A		T	I	E	R			G	P	A
N	A	E		M	E	E	K	A	N	D	M	I	L	D
E	L	S		E	L	S	E			U	N	T	R	U
T	Y	S		N	I	T	S			M	A	N	D	M

- Minister's quarters
- Culprit in some food recalls
- Severe
- "Without delay!"
- "The Matrix" hero
- Spot for one in disfavor
- Rebus puzzle staple
- Outlaw Kelly
- Shriek
- Brillo alternative

- "You've got to be kidding"
- Grace
- Nourishment for un bébé
- Put in a request
- Department of northern France
- Lipinski with a gold medal
- Beat
- Well-put
- Confucian path

NATION & WORLD

Castro appears in photos

Los Angeles Times

Driving a stake through the heart of rumors that Fidel Castro was dead or dying, the Cuban government Monday published two photos of the former ruler holding a copy of Friday's *Granma* newspaper.

An accompanying column signed with Castro's name said he had not even suffered "a headache" and said the claims of a Venezuelan doctor in Naples, Fla., that he had suffered a stroke and was moribund amounted to "stupidities."

Some Cubans living abroad remained unconvinced, arguing that the photo could have been faked. A few even alleged that the news media that published reports of a Castro sighting on Saturday were in fact part of the Havana propaganda machine. But the photos

of the 86-year-old Castro, stooped and holding a cane but smiling, and the column should have put the final torpedo into the spate of rumors over the past three weeks that he was incapacitated or had died.

The nine photos published in the state-run website Cubadebate show him wearing a checked red shirt, blue pants and a hat made of palm leaves. Two show him holding *Granma's* Friday edition. Others show him inspecting plants while armed guards stand in the background. The photos were credited to his son, Alex Castro Soto del Valle, a photographer. The column added that Castro stopped writing his columns,

known as "reflections," because "clearly it is not my role to fill up the pages of our printed news media, which is devoted to other tasks required by the country."

Granma published the column and some of the photos Monday, but the column did not appear in the Cubadebate section reserved for his reflections.

Castro, whose speeches and columns once famously ran to thousands of words, published his last reflection — a 55-word comment on religion and science — on June 19. He had not appeared in public since a March meeting with Pope Benedict XVI and an early April meeting with a Chilean student leader.

Correction

- In an Oct. 18 article titled "Panel discusses presidential candidate platforms about the environment, sustainability," *The Breeze* incorrectly spelled the name of political communications professor Brian Kaylor.

US sues Bank of America for \$1 billion

Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Federal prosecutors in Manhattan sued Bank of America for \$1 billion on Wednesday, alleging the bank defrauded government-sponsored mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in the complaint that Countrywide, which was purchased by the Charlotte-based bank, generated thousands of fraudulent home loans through a process known as the "Hustle," which involved processing home loans at high speed and without quality checkpoints.

The loans were sold to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and later defaulted, causing more than \$1 billion in losses and numerous

foreclosures, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement.

"The fraudulent conduct alleged in today's complaint was spectacularly brazen in scope," Bharara wrote. "Countrywide and Bank of America made disastrously bad loans and stuck taxpayers with the bill."

Bharara said this is the first civil fraud suit brought by the Justice Department concerning mortgage loans later sold to Fannie and Freddie.

"Countrywide and Bank of America systematically removed every check in favor of its own balance — they cast aside underwriters, eliminated quality controls, incentivized unqualified personnel to cut corners, and concealed the resulting defects," Bharara said. "These toxic products were then sold to the government-sponsored enterprises as good loans."

Bank of America didn't immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

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More than 150 students show up to donate blood during Tuesday's 11th annual CAA Blood Challenge

By **MOLLI FERRARELLO**
contributing writer

It's a little needlestick to save a life. Jill Bair adopted this philosophy after watching her father get progressively sicker throughout her senior year of high school before finally hearing his diagnosis.

"He lost two-thirds of his blood," said Bair, a sophomore communication sciences and disorders major. "The doctors immediately gave him four bags of blood."

She explained that he had been suffering from hemorrhoids, while on a business trip, so he ignored them and didn't go to the doctor. He didn't realize how much blood he was losing until he found himself unable to walk up and down stairs.

Blair said doctors were surprised her father had been able to make it so long.

"They said that his organs probably would've shut down within the next few days," she said. "They told him, 'We really don't know how you're walking around right now.'"

After experiencing how vital a reliable source of donor blood is, Bair now donates as often as blood drive services allows — every 56 days.

She said she usually donates through the Red Cross, but on Tuesday, she and 174 other students participated in the 11th annual Colonial Athletic Association Blood Challenge.

On Tuesday, JMU Athletics hosted the competition for schools in the CAA through Virginia Blood Services in Warren Hall.

The CAA has 11 full-time members, including The College of William and Mary, George Mason University and Georgia State University. The university that donates the most



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

TOP Kathryn Leary, a freshman communication sciences and disorders major, waits while she donates blood at Tuesday's CAA Blood Challenge. **BOTTOM** Tyler Shannon, a freshman engineering major, listens to his iPod while a nurse assists him.

blood wins a trophy.

The competition was started by the CAA provost and president. Over the past decade, this challenge has raised

32,106 units of blood, which helped to save 96,318, according to the CAA website.

The Blood Challenge emphasizes the importance of donating blood and is an opportunity for students and faculty to both get involved and show support for their school.

Though hosted by JMU athletics, Tiffany Brutus, director of Student-Athlete Affairs, said that athletes aren't typically encouraged to donate themselves because of the physical rest required after giving blood. Athletes are present though, volunteering with the drive in other ways.

"They take an active role in promoting it, primarily just throughout the student-athlete population and to their classes," Brutus said. "We also try to get some of the freshmen to promote it within their dorm setting. The biggest thing for the athletes is to come here and volunteer in the canteen area or giving out the shirts."

Ryan Sompayrac, a freshman business management major, gave blood for the first time on Tuesday.

"My dad used to do it all the time — my mom, and dad did," Sompayrac said. "We were going to do it before I came to college but we never got around to it."

Despite watching another donor faint while he waited, Sompayrac still wanted to do a double red cell donation.

During a double red cell donation, two units of blood are taken as opposed to the standard one unit donation. A machine takes the red cells and returns the remaining blood components back to the arm, according to the American Red Cross.

Sompayrac was one of 28 donors to give red blood cells at the drive, according to Virginia Blood Services.

Brutus said at least two people fainted this year, but that's not unusual for blood drives.

see **BLOOD**, page 4

JMU to demolish apartments

New residence hall to replace existing buildings



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

The Walnut Lane Flats and Grace Street Apartments housed less than 200 students. The buildings closed on May 26 and are being torn down.

By **IJ CHAN**
The Breeze

The Grace Street Apartments and Walnut Lane Flats will be torn down soon to make room for the construction of JMU's first apartment-style dorms.

The new hall, according to Bill Wyatt, public affairs manager, has a budget of \$50 million and is currently in its design phase. If all goes as planned, the building should be finished and be ready to house students for the 2014-2015 school year, Wyatt said.

He added that the new facility will be JMU's first apartment-style housing facility with single and double bedrooms, bathrooms attached to each bedroom and a full kitchen.

Kevin Meaney, associate director of the Office of Residence Life, said in an email sent out to Walnut Lane and Grace Street residents in January that JMU has decided to discontinue housing at the site for the 2012-2013 school year.

According to ORL, the buildings closed off on May 26.

The Grace Street Apartments and Walnut Lane Flats once housed less than 200 upperclassmen, according to Maggie Burkhart-Evans, director of Residence Life.

Burkhart-Evans said that the old buildings are being replaced because they're old and contain asbestos.

"They just weren't an efficient use of space and they were full of asbestos," Burkhart-Evans said. "We could accommodate more people by building a new space rather than just renovating."

The Grace Street Apartments and Walnut Lane Flats once housed less than 200 upperclassmen, according to Maggie Burkhart-Evans, director of Residence Life.

Burkhart-Evans said the new residence hall will house about 507 students when construction is complete.

CONTACT IJ Chan at
breezenews@gmail.com.



BECKY SULLIVAN / THE BREEZE

Keeping up with the Algers

President Jon Alger and his wife Mary Ann both spoke to different student organizations this week.

President Alger spoke with SGA on Tuesday afternoon about his recent "listening tour" events in California. He said many of the alumni spoke about the positive experiences they had at JMU and how they would like to see those experiences carried on for future students.

SGA will work with administrators this semester in an ongoing effort to reconnect alumni with the university. The goal is to raise the percentage of alumni who donate money to JMU, which is currently seven percent, according to President Alger.

Mrs. Alger spoke to the Society of Entrepreneurs, a student-led organization open to students in any major. The group already has students from many different colleges and majors including, the School of Media Arts and Design and the College of Business. She shared her business background, gave advice to the students, and answered questions about starting and running a business.

DEBATE | Both candidates strayed from topic of foreign policy

from front

But students also disliked Romney's comment, when he said, "when I am president" as opposed to "if I am president." Overall, many students shared a consensus about both candidates losing track of the foreign policy debate topic. Instead, Romney focused on the deficit and the economy, and Obama mentioned education and women's issues. One student said both

candidates seemed to forget the debate's foreign policy focus, which many students found amusing and agreed with. Even though students weren't sure about the winner, a CNN/ORC International poll conducted after Monday's debate indicated that 48 percent of the viewers believed Obama won, while 40 percent believed Romney won. Noland said the MDS will hold a public debate

tournament toward the end of the semester as well as more debates during spring semester. The presidential election is Nov. 6, and polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Students should check their voter registration cards for their voting location. The last day to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 30. **CONTACT** Kelsey Beckett at beckettka@dukes.jmu.edu.

BLOOD | Chick-fil-A and Red Mango donated food to the drive

from page 3

"I think it's more of an unpredictable thing," Brutus said. "It really depends on if people were prepared beforehand. A lot of people don't consider these things during the registration process." She explained that if people had a lot of fluids, and ate a couple of meals before, it's less likely to happen. To prevent people from fainting, they offer food and juice. This year,

Chick-fil-A donated food and Red Mango donated smoothies. Brutus said they expected 200 participants, less than many of the other competing universities, due to the smaller size of JMU. But since they received 175 donors, Brutus still considers the drive a success. Last year, the University of Delaware won the competition with 1,086 donors. Each participating institution had at least 115 donors and seven collected

more than 240 units of blood, according to the CAA website. Brutus explained how schools like Drexel, located in a major city like Philadelphia, attract donors outside of the university. Brutus said while JMU didn't win the competition, the Dukes can still be considered team players. **CONTACT** Mollie Ferrarello at ferrarmx@dukes.jmu.edu.

ASSAULT | Collins Center serves about 600 people every year

from front

effort to keep themselves safe by locking their doors and windows and adopting a "buddy system" when they're outside their condominium. "We've been keep the place locked up pretty well," said Lucatorto, a sophomore. "I've tried to be more careful but it didn't really hit home with everybody until it happened right next to us." Sarah Salifou said she saw police in the area the night of the assault. She said she and her sister had known about similar incidents in the area before. "My sister lived here last summer, and she's known about people who just go around trying to open doors and get in their house, so we always lock our door," said Salifou, a freshman. "We always take these precautions." But Salifou said she doesn't feel any less safe since the incident. "When I go to my mailbox, I always lock my door," she said. "It's sad that it happened, but now that it's happened since I've lived here, I'll be a little more cautious." Miller stressed that in sexual assault cases, it's never the

"My sister lived [in Hunters Ridge Condominiums] last summer, and she's known about people who just go around trying to open doors and get in their house, so we always lock our door. We always take these precautions."

Sarah Salifou
Hunters Ridge resident

victim's fault. "The only way to keep this from happening is for the perpetrator to stop their behavior," she said. The Collins Center offers many resources for victims, including crisis counseling, therapy and accompanying them to court. Miller also said representatives can go to the hospital with the victim to coordinate with the sexual assault nurse examiner and first responders. She said the

center serves about 600 men, women and children each year. The Collins Center also has a 24-hour hotline anyone may call at 540-434-2272. Sgt. Joe Palaskey of HPD used to patrol around college housing on a bike and now works with JMU Public Safety to inform students about the dangers in the area. He said police would go door-to-door reminding students of these risks. He encourages anyone who sees suspicious activity to call police. "We always have that gut feeling if something isn't quite right," Palaskey said. "If you call, and give good description and the police associate with possible offenders, we can take away that opportunity to commit that crime. You saw, you reported, we came out." Palaskey added that any students looking for more information about personal safety can go to the Department of Justice website under "Toolkits." **CONTACT** Jen Eyring and Alison Parker at breezenews@gmail.com.

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LUCAS WACHOB | no goal

Blame the culture, not the cyclists

Lance Armstrong shouldn't be singled out for his alleged doping

On Monday morning, Lance Armstrong was officially stripped of all seven of his Tour de France titles by the International Cycling Union.

The cyclist was also banned for life from the sport after the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's lengthy investigation into his doping.

It's hard to believe our obsession with the idea of "purity" in sports has drifted so far from reality that we're now trying to erase seven years from the history books.

It's fairly clear Armstrong did cheat throughout his career, but what's not clear is why he's being punished for something most cyclists do. Nine of the 10 podium finishers during Armstrong's seven wins are now tied to doping charges.

Doping is rampant. At a certain point, don't we have to accept that this is just part of the sport?

Proponents of sports "purity" say doping is a shortcut to success, but it seems like more of a necessity. If everyone is doping, isn't it an unfair disadvantage not to do it?

Plus, it's not very clear which "advantages" are OK to use and which aren't. Armstrong used drugs in defeating cancer. His bike was an engineering masterpiece. He

rigorously regulated his body with his diet and training regimen.

Quite frankly, it's difficult to see the difference between his celebrated achievements and his illegal conduct.

Some say it's unhealthy for athletes to alter their body for improved performance, but that isn't the only danger with athletics. The injuries suffered by football or hockey players, for instance, can cause trauma and suffering that will last for the rest of their lives, yet few want to abandon plays like the kickoff in football, one of the most dangerous plays in the game.

Things as simple as body weight of linemen in the NFL have seriously damaging health implications.

Still, we don't interfere because we understand that athletes choose to participate in these sports. They may get injured or die younger, but they may also become nationally admired millionaires.

The USADA also isn't consistent with its safety message. It pumps players full of drugs to get them on the field when they otherwise couldn't play, but punishes them for using other types of enhancers.

Some things, like human growth

hormone or the knee surgery Kobe Bryant and Alex Rodriguez received in Germany, are promising developments for aiding player recovery and longevity, yet are illegal in the US.

This just goes to show the real agenda of those trying to ban doping from cycling, and it's the same reason Bud Selig, commissioner of the MLB, won't bring instant replay to baseball: a bizarre, outdated and ultimately destructive notion of purity and tradition.

Like bans on alcohol, gambling, marijuana and other consensual activities, the crusade against drug use in sports is a waste. It dehumanizes athletes by idolizing them with a hypocritical concept of purity. It violates society's belief in the individual's right to control their body and life.

Now it's erased seven of the biggest years in Tour de France history for something that almost every other cyclist does to perform at a competitive level.

Lucas Wachob is a senior public policy and administration major. Contact Lucas at wachoblm@dukes.jmu.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Halloween debate

Students face a monumental decision in the upcoming days. Not who will win the presidential election, but when will we celebrate Halloween?

Halloween is still on Oct. 31, but that's a Wednesday, which means we can't assume parties will happen on a specific Friday.

Alas, what to do? The answer to the Halloween question has important consequences: Like, when do I need to buy my costume? And when should I visit Fear Forest? And most crucial: When do I carve my pumpkin? (On this last issue, I am taking applications for who wants to actually reach inside my gourd and disembowel it.)

There are two candidate weekends for Halloween celebrations: Oct. 26 or Nov. 2. Both candidates have reasonable platforms. Oct. 26 boasts a football game and is closer to Oct. 29's full moon.

Yet Nov. 2 is also promising. It's daylight saving time. You can either see this as one extra hour to party or one more hour to sleep (or, more likely, recover).

In typical JMU style, some

predict both weekends will commemorate All Hallows' Eve. But, please think about Nov. 1. Imagine yourself walking through the sliding doors of any Wal-Mart. Gone are the spider-webs, the cackling witches and the hockey masks. In are the cornucopia, autumn foliage and canned cranberry salad.

Of course, candy will be on sale, but no one wants to load up on high fructose corn syrup that can bust the seams on Halloween.

I'm wagering money (or maybe just credibility) that J-MU will throw down on Oct. 26. Since when have Americans been known for their patience?

No one's going to keep their cape in the closet on Oct. 26. Girls will put on pumps and be that "sexy [insert character here]" and guys will be "that dude in a button-down shirt with a mask in his hand" (if they're that daring).

There will certainly be parties on Nov. 2—but you'll be the only one wearing fangs at the bus stop. I'll already be in a scarf, heading to an ugly sweater Christmas party.

Keith Zirkle is a senior statistics major.

Hazing isn't isolated to Greek Life

Every fall, organizations all around campus gain new members. With those new members sometimes comes the danger of hazing.

With JMU's strict hazing policy, which matches most of Greek Life's in toughness, I'm at a loss for as to how to deal with the organizations that haze freely with no consequences.

I joined InterVarsity, a Christian group, freshman year and became part of a small group. Through our first weeks we went on scavenger hunts, ate strange foods bindfolded and did other "team building" and "bonding" activities.

At the time I went along with the group, wanting to fit in, and never really thought about the true nature of what was going on.

As my time at JMU went on I joined other organizations — one of which has recently begun an internal hazing investigation.

As I learned more about what's considered hazing on this campus, I realized a scary and unfair truth: Some organizations are scrutinized thoroughly while religiously-affiliated organizations get free rein.

I am strong in my faith and am enjoying my time in IV greatly, but just because these organizations have religious affiliations doesn't mean they deserve a free pass to haze.

IV isn't alone; I have witnessed Young Life houses passed down via embarrassing events such as running through Carrier in odd costumes.

Do I think it's hazing? No. But if Fraternity and Sorority Life and Office of Student Activities and Involvement are serious about stopping hazing everywhere on campus they need to look everywhere.

A confused Duke

CONVERSATION CORNER

When are you planning on celebrating Halloween?

@OODLESODROODLES

only makes sense to celebrate it this weekend! Next weekend is November which is dedicated to binge eating turkey, not pumpkins.

@SMITTAY626

this weekend! The hype of Halloween will be over after the 31st.

BRIDGETTE QUANN

This weekend!!

ERIN SCHMITT

Both of course!

@WHITNEYCHASE

This weekend! :)

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DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth. Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A "you-make-me-wanna-celly" pat to our boys on the club ice hockey team for staying undefeated last weekend.
From a hockey fan who might not mind this lockout after all.

An "I'm-sorry-I-ever-took-the-amazing-food-for-granted" pat to Dining Services.
From a Duke studying abroad who daydreams of E-Hall and finally realizes why we're ranked so high.

A "you're-too-close-for-comfort" dart to the stranger who walked a foot behind me all the way to Dukes the other night.
From a freshman girl who didn't know who you were or what you wanted and is now a little afraid to walk anywhere by herself.

A "help-me-I'm-poor" dart to graduate school application fees.
From a senior who just wants to further her education without going broke.

A "these-are-changing-times" dart to whoever it is that handles enrollment dates and times.
From a Duke abroad who has to register for her classes at 11:45 on a Friday.

An "I couldn't-do-it-without-you" pat to my best friend since preschool.
From a slightly homesick student who is so glad you came to JMU, too.

A "no-wonder-only-seven-percent-of-alumni-donate" dart to JMU Parking and Dining Services.
From a senior who's been nickel and dimed one too many times on top of rising tuition and fees.

A "thank-you-for-saving-my-car-from-a-Diet-Coke-wash" pat to the boy who knocked on my window outside Dukes to tell me I left my drink on the roof.
From a hungry, rushed girl who appreciated that the caffeine got where it needed.

A "thanks-for-being-down" dart to Blackboard for not providing my scheduled quiz.
From the guy who finally used the study guide only to bomb the bogus pop quiz.

A "you're-the-reason-October-is-National-Bullying-Prevention-Month" dart to the guy picking on his "friend" all through dinner in Top Dog.

From a very disappointed student at a neighboring table who will say something next time.

An "I'm-in-it-to-win-it" dart to my boyfriend, who thinks he can get more darts and pats published than me.
From a girl with a way with words and a healthy competitive streak.

A "just-10-more-minutes" pat to my biopsychology professor for making class so interesting.
From a student who wishes she didn't have to wait until next class to hear more about sleep patterns.

An "are-you-kidding-me" dart to the guy in the Jackson study lounge for bringing in food and proceeding to blast "I Kissed A Girl" through his headphones without doing any real work.
From a girl who is swamped with work.

A "perfect-10" pat to SGA for putting on "Purple Out" for a decade.
From a girl who loves showing JMU spirit and getting free stuff.

A "put a lid on it" dart to the girl whose drink I accidentally (but barely) knocked while in line.
From a senior who apologized profusely despite your attitude and thinks next time you should put a top on your drink so it won't spill in the first place.

Editorial Policies

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The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. The Breeze assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.

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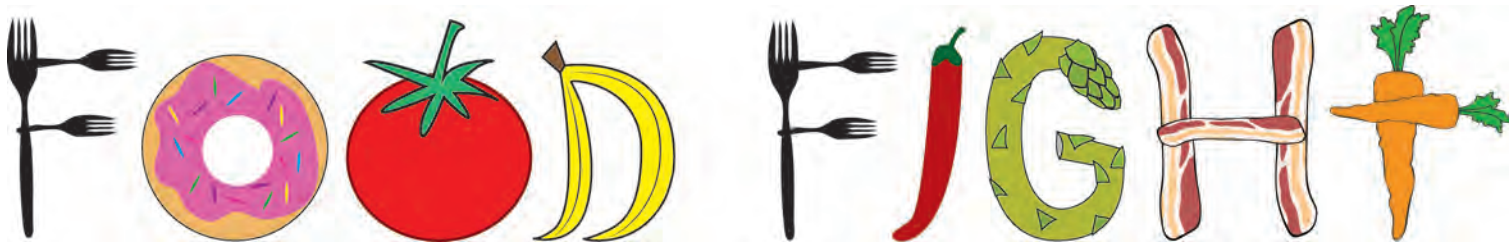
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Food Day cooking contest in E-Hall has student, faculty competing for healthiest dish



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Cooking competition judges Valarie Ghant, Jay Vetter and Jeremy Akers taste freshman Zinnia Cantrell's pumpkin cupcakes at E-Hall on Monday. They rated three entries based on taste, presentation, healthiness and sustainability. Victoria Nuckols (supervisor of dietetics and nutrition labs) won. "I decided to just pull out all the stops and have a good time," she said.

By JENNY CLAIRE KNIGHT
The Breeze

Wild-caught salmon drizzled in a ginger teriyaki orange sauce was the main attraction at E-Hall on Monday — but it wasn't for students.

Three contestants brought their dishes to E-Hall to be judged based on taste, presentation and how healthy and sustainable the food was. For each

entry, the judges were given an ingredient list and recipe so they could see what was in each dish and how it was made.

The event was held as part of JMU's weeklong celebration of Food Day.

The judging panel consisted of Jay Vetter, JMU Dining's district executive chef, Valarie Ghant, director of the center for multicultural student services, and Jeremy Akers, a dietetics

professor.

"I'm looking for a creative dish that obviously tastes good, but is also nutritional, maybe a new way to deliver an old favorite," Vetter said before the event.

Zinnia Cantrell, a freshman international business major, made a pumpkin cupcake with maple cream cheese frosting and gum paste decorations. Instead of sugar, though, she

tried to keep her recipe healthy by mashing up bananas to reduce the amount of sugar.

Lara Sokoloff, a dietetics laboratory manager, entered her reduced-fat Italian orange bread.

"I like to make recipes healthier and hopefully tastier," Sokoloff said. "This was an existing recipe, and I needed to

see **FOOD**, page 8

EMILY WINTERS | foodie on a dime

Effortless eating

When the work load piles on, these last-minute recipes will save you time

If I had to pick one season's food to eat all year long, I'd choose fall.

Butternut squash, pumpkin pie, baked apples and chili: It seems like everywhere I look there's another warm, comforting food calling to me.

But this time of year also means it's the middle of the semester and schoolwork is piling up. I still see cooking as a stress-reliever, but it needs to be something quick and easy. I'm drawn to recipes that have minimal preparation before putting them in a Crock-Pot or the oven and getting back to work while I wait for it to cook.

Sometimes I get so caught up reading food blogs and finding these new fall recipes that I waste time I should have spent studying. But I'm finding recipes that will save me time later, so I think it's time well-spent.

Here are a few things that I'm looking forward to trying.

1. Slow-cooker Nutella pound cake: Put flour, sugar, vanilla extract, chocolate chips and Nutella in your Crock-Pot, wait four hours, and enjoy the Nutella goodness as a reward for all your hard work.

2. Winter root pizza: Top pre-made pizza dough with carrots, butternut squash, cauliflower, beets, goat cheese and rosemary.

3. Butternut squash vegetarian chili: This would be great to bring to a tailgate. It's loaded with butternut squash, avocado, beans and tomatoes.

4. Overnight oatmeal: If you're a breakfast lover like me, this is a must. Just put the rolled

» Check out Emily's recipe for black rice with acorn squash at breezejmu.org.

oats with milk and whatever dried fruit you like in a Crock-Pot overnight and you'll wake up to a wonderful smelling house and a delicious breakfast.

5. Spiced sweet potatoes and chickpeas: Throw the potatoes in the oven with cinnamon, honey, nutmeg and ginger. While those are cooking, heat up some chickpeas. Combine them for a fast, delicious, fall-flavored meal.

6. Apple butter: All you have to do is peel and chop the apples, add them to the slow cooker with cloves, nutmeg and other spices and wait. Once the apple butter is done, it's a great snack to have around.

7. Slow-cooker enchiladas: Roll up your tortillas with beans or meat and layer them in a Crock-Pot with salsa and cheese. After a couple of hours, the gooey goodness is ready to enjoy.

8. Tomato basil soup: Put your tomatoes, basil, broth, carrots and herbs in a slow cooker, wait a couple of hours, and your childhood comfort food is ready to eat with minimal prep.

9. Fruit and yogurt salad: Apples, pears, grapefruit and pomegranate seeds. Topped with honey Greek yogurt and you've found a healthier way to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Emily Winters is a senior media arts & design and sociology double major. Contact Emily at winterer@dukes.jmu.edu.

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ALBUM REVIEW

'Bats for Lashes' strips down

Singer abandons synthetic sounds for more natural vocals

By **MICHAEL GEARS**
contributing writer

Natasha Khan isn't hiding behind any barriers in her third album, "The Haunted Man."

Bats for Lashes
The Haunted Man
★★★★☆
Released Oct. 24

The album carries listeners through songs questioning life and love.

The cover art depicts Khan totally naked, foreshadowing the album's theme of stripping to the fundamentals of music. In the past, Khan's tracks focused on synthesized beats and unconventional instruments, leaving her voice outshined. While Khan is the only vocalist in Bats for Lashes, it has felt like a band rather than an individual.

Thankfully, in "The Haunted Man," there's no question that the focal point of each track are her powerful vocals and well-crafted lyrics. "Lilies" opens the album

and speaks for the rest of the songs. The song centers around the lyrics "Thank God I'm Alive" and echoes the overall message of getting back to our natural state, while appreciating the basics in life that are often taken for granted. She moves away from the excess sounds, the glamorous and unnecessary additions on songs, and focusing on the pure form of vocals. You hear the song progress beautifully as it's backed by powerful, pop-electronic beats and ultimately a choir of chanting strings.

Single "All Your Gold" is reminiscent of Gotye's chart-topping hit "Someone That I Used to Know" because of the similar lyrics. Khan's more prevalent vocals are evident in tracks like this. Backed by simple and repetitive tribal-sounding drums, she unleashes her voice without any reverb alterations for the lyrics. Even with these unconventional backing sounds, the vocals and lyrics continue as the focus of the track.

This is a personal album for Bats for Lashes. The normally

mysterious singer lets the listeners into her life more as she revisits her family's past. One particular standout track is "Laura," composed alongside Justin Parker, who works closely with Lana Del Rey. In a similar fashion to Del Rey, this track features a grand piano as the lone backing for Khan as she belts out one of this year's great ballads. It's one of the album's most intimate tracks, symbolizing the simplicity and focused direction of the album.

"The Haunted Man" goes in the right direction for Khan. This isn't her attempt to break it into the American mainstream music ranks, but it refines her as an artist. Her nude album cover emphasizes that mindset.

One of the most memorable lines of the album is "Laura, you're more than a superstar." After hearing this album, though, you'll think Khan is the real superstar.

Michael Gears is a senior accounting major. He's the business manager and a DJ for WXJM. Contact Michael at gearsmt@dukes.jmu.edu.

FOOD | 'A national celebration'

from page 7

make it lower in fat and lower in calories, and not take away from the taste."

Victoria Nuckols, a supervisor of dietetics and nutrition labs at JMU, made wild-caught salmon in a ginger teriyaki orange sauce, roasted red peppers and spring onion quinoa. She also made organic spinach sautéed with carrots, pine nuts and garlic.

"I do a lot of cooking at home and a lot of healthy cooking," Nuckols said. "I spent a lot of time in the restaurant and culinary industry before I came to JMU. I decided to just pull out all the stops and have a good time."

Nuckols, who worked as a D-Hall supervisor from 1992-1995, has a background in geriatric nutrition. She's worked as a supervisor of food service at the Sunny-side Retirement Community and the Outer Banks Hospital before coming to JMU.

Despite easily tweaking the recipe to make it more nutritious, Nuckols came across some challenges.

"Everything I made is temperature sensitive, so I had to get it up here hot and let it hold for 45 minutes before I served it," Nuckols said. "It was a challenge getting it up here hot, but I got it up here."

"I really enjoyed feeling like a 'Top Chef' contestant when the judges gave us their feedback."

Lara Sokoloff
dietetics laboratory manager

The judges praised Cantrell's gum paste cupcake decorations and maple icing, the moist texture and flavors of Sokoloff's bread and how the pine nuts in Nuckols' dish gave it a crunch.

"I really enjoyed feeling like a 'Top Chef' contestant when the judges gave us their feedback," Sokoloff said.

In the end, Nuckols received first prize, earning her a \$25 Madison Grill gift card.

The Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, Dining Services, E.A.R.T.H. Club, the School of Communication Studies and The Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence helped to put on these events.

"It's a national celebration of food," said Paul Mabrey, a communication studies professor in charge of the competition. "It's

about creating awareness and building connections between people and food."

The idea for the cooking competition started over the summer, according to Mabrey.

"You see it on television all the time with 'Top Chef,' 'Iron Chef' and 'Chopped,' so it was a natural way to get interest on campus," Mabrey said.

Each day this week has met one of the five priorities that the National Food Day Organization has created. The cooking competition fulfilled food priority No. 1: promoting healthier and safer food.

"I think we all would love to see the food competition happen again," Mabrey said. "It's a great way to celebrate community and food, which is really what this day and this week is about for us."

Other JMU Food Day events this week are a Food Day Information and Awareness Table from 12- 5 p.m. at the Warren patio today and on the commons on Friday.

Tonight, E.A.R.T.H. Club hosts James K. Stanesco from Mercer University. His lecture, "Living in the Age of the Factory Farm" is at 7 p.m. in Harrison Hall 1261.

CONTACT Jenny Claire Knight at knightjc@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Sports-pocalypse

Meltdowns and mayhem from 2012 confirm Mayan suspicions



I've been carefully watching JMU over the month of October, and do you know what I've noticed?

People are out and about! They're casually walking around and enjoying

themselves! Don't you all know that the end of the world is mere weeks away? Virginians will build bomb shelters and buy all the bottled water out of groceries stores when there's a tropical storm within 1,000 miles, but nobody wants to get ready for the end of days?

The Mayans have predicted the end of the world this December, and I, for one, am not going to disagree with a civilization of people who sacrificed farm animals for rain.

But let's just say the trusted word of the Mayans isn't enough. In case you need more proof that we are one Cubs' World Series championship away from the end of the world, I've documented some clear evidence from the sports world. The sheer volume of heartbreaking comebacks and meltdowns this year can only point toward the fulfillment of Revelations and the end of the world.

Let's begin at the beginning. Not Genesis — but February's Super Bowl XLVI. The already legendary pass down the left sideline to Mario Manningham seemed pretty harmless at the time, but it was a harbinger of dark days to come. Following the New York Giants' epic win over the Patriots was the calm before an apocalyptic storm.

In late spring, the thunderclouds broke. Just when Patriots fans in Boston had started to recover from their Super Bowl woes, the Boston Celtics squandered an opportunity to win the Eastern Conference Finals over their archrival, the Miami Heat. LeBron James' Heat, down 3-2 in the series and playing on the road, forced Game 7 in Miami behind James' monster 45 point/15 rebound stat line. Miami would win Game 7 and eventually the NBA championship. The woes weren't

see **END**, page 10

FOOTBALL

UNDER THE **BRIGHTEST** LIGHTS

BECKY SULLIVAN / THE BREEZE

Runningback Jauan Latney takes a handoff from quarterback Michael Birdsong in practice. Both players were used in reserve roles throughout the first half of the season, but Birdsong will make his first career start during Saturday's Homecoming game against Georgia State University.

JMU prepares for its Homecoming game with a new man leading the offense

By **TONY SCHAFFNER**
The Breeze

The No. 9 Dukes (5-2, 3-1) will look to get back on track in a Homecoming showdown against Georgia State University (1-7, 1-4) on Saturday.

The Dukes are coming off a 35-29 loss at the University of Richmond Saturday, their first loss this season to a CAA opponent. JMU is currently tied for second in the CAA standings with Old Dominion University, who is ineligible for the conference title because of its planned move to Conference USA in the FBS next season.

Last week, the Panthers lost their Homecoming game to Villanova University. The Wildcats piled up 343 yards on 53 rushes in a 49-24 win at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The loss for GSU was exacerbated by a knee injury to starting running back Donald Russell, the Panthers' leading rusher, who averages 106 yards per game.

"They have a running back [that] we're not sure if he's playing or not, but we look at every body as a playmaker on offense," said redshirt freshman defensive

tackle Alex Mosley. "So whoever has the ball, we need to shut them down."

Both teams in this weekend's duel will feature freshman quarterbacks. Georgia State will use two redshirt freshman quarterbacks in Ben McLane, who is the primary starter, and Ronnie Bell, who comes in as a running threat and change of pace under center.

The Dukes, on the other hand, are dealing with a quarterback controversy as true freshman Michael Birdsong replaced redshirt junior Justin Thorpe in the third quarter last Saturday and nearly mounted a comeback, leading three scoring drives. Birdsong was named the starter earlier this week and has been practicing with the first team offense.

"Leadership ability [and] being able to pretty much throw the ball anywhere on the field," Birdsong said about what he brings to the table as a starting quarterback. "I have confidence in [myself], my line, my receivers, so I'll throw the ball up there to my receiver if he's one on one and I'll give him the opportunity to go get it."

JMU as a team will look to continue improving across the board after the offense threw two

interceptions and gave up three sacks. The defense allowed four passing touchdowns last week.

"We can improve everywhere," said senior cornerback Leavander Jones. "This is football, it's 11 weeks, and you can improve every day. We need to improve on offense, defense and special teams."

This task will be made somewhat easier with GSU ranking last in the CAA in turnover margin at -10 while also ranking last in rushing defense, having given up an average of 247 yards per game.

On offense, the Panthers "want to throw the ball, but they do run some zone-reads [with] a little bit of power [running], but mostly throwing and play-action," head coach Mickey Matthews said.

The strength of GSU's offense, without Russell, lies in its wide receiving corps, which averages just less than 200 yards per game.

On defense, GSU is led by defensive coordinator Anthony Midget. Its defense uses a 4-2-5 formation.

This will be the first conference matchup between the two schools as it's Georgia State's first season in the Colonial Athletic Association.

But in an unusual twist, this could also be the last matchup for some time as the fledgling GSU program is making the jump from the CAA to the Sun Belt Conference in the Football Bowl Subdivision next year.

Georgia State head coach Billy Curry was a former head coach at the University of Alabama and starting center for the Green Bay Packers during their victory in Super Bowl I. Curry is in the last year of his contract and has confirmed that he will retire after this season.

The Dukes are aware of the added pressure that comes along with Homecoming but are focused on getting back on track toward their ultimate goal: a conference championship.

"We want to give the fans [what] they came to see," said redshirt junior wide receiver Arlandis Harvey. "I think it's obviously more important for us as a team to get the win just to bounce back from that loss against Richmond."

Gametime is set for 3:30 p.m. on Saturday at Bridgeforth Stadium.

CONTACT Tony Schaffner
at schaffaj@dukes.jmu.edu.

DUKES TAKE ON W&M

Defender Tim Whitebread (#6) tries to take possession from midfielder Chris Dunn (#8) during last night's game. For recap and a photo slideshow, visit breezejmu.org.



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

QUARTERBACK

Both players understood Matthews' reason for the starting change

from front

"I was happy of course," Birdsong said. "I was pretty excited for the opportunity."

Matthews will look at possible supplemental roles for Thorpe on offense but hasn't made any decisions. Thorpe will be listed as the backup quarterback on the depth chart.

"Coach said he would like to see me maybe get on, play some receiver," Thorpe said. "Just find a way to get me on the field."

Thorpe played some receiver when Drew Dudzik (2006-2010) was playing at quarterback. Now, he says he's "willing to do whatever to help the team out."

Before Saturday's game, Birdsong had completed 14 of his 24 pass attempts for 146 yards and two touchdowns, playing a minimal role in five games. But he's not going to prepare any differently this week now that he will start.

"No adjustment," Birdsong said. "I go in every week ready to play, looking to play. So I got to do the same thing, except this week I'm going to be starting — that's the only difference."

The Dukes will have to adjust their offensive game plan with Birdsong at the helm. They will run less of the option offense, where the quarterback can make the decision to pitch the ball or run it himself.

"Michael's a better thrower and not as good a runner [as Thorpe], so we're going to certainly throw the ball

more with Michael, because he was a great arm," Matthews said. "Don't underestimate his running ability."

Redshirt junior tailback Dae'Quan Scott has experienced both Thorpe and Birdsong at the head of the offense this season. But he doesn't see much of a variation in the two players.

"They're both quarterbacks," Scott said. "They both know what they're doing. I got confidence in both of them."

Matthews expects Birdsong to be a little nervous on Saturday, but is confident Birdsong will get past that.

"To be a freshman, he's extremely poised, very confident," Matthews said.

Birdsong and Thorpe have gotten the chance to communicate with each other since the decision was made. Both realize the context of the move.

"Me and [Thorpe] have talked," Birdsong said. "Everything's good, everything's fine. It's the same as every week. It's not about one quarterback, it's not about one player, it's about the team — what's best for the team."

After playing Georgia State at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday in Bridgeforth Stadium, the Dukes will travel to face the University of Maine and Villanova University before playing Old Dominion University at home in their regular season finale.

CONTACT Wayne Epps Jr. at breezesports@gmail.com.



PICKS of the WEEK

					
Chase Sports Editor 3-3	Sean Photo Editor 18-18	Torie Editor-In-Chief 23-19	Jeff Managing Editor 27-15	Greer Life Editor 0-0	Wayne Sports Editor 12-6

JMU vs. Georgia State	JMU	JMU	JMU	JMU	JMU	JMU
Florida vs. Georgia	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Notre Dame vs. Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Oklahoma	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
Falcons vs. Eagles	Falcons	Eagles	Eagles	Falcons	Falcons	Falcons
Giants vs. Cowboys	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants
Saints vs. Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Saints	Saints	Saints	Broncos

'Picks of the Week' matches the predictions of six Breeze editors!

END | Hold 'loved ones close'

from page 9

quite over in Boston either, as Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine would lead the team to a historically bad fifth place finish in the American League East and the defending champion Bruins would drop a Stanley Cup playoff Game 7 to the Washington Capitals and their rookie goalie.

But these omens aren't just limited to the Northeast. Take a trip across the pond to witness Adam Scott bogey the last four holes of the British Open to blow a seemingly insurmountable lead or stay on American soil to watch an even more shocking comeback by the Europeans in the Ryder Cup.

The entire 2012 Texas Rangers campaign deserves mention, too. Josh Hamilton was ripping pitchers to shreds at the beginning of the season, but the \$120 million Rangers were eventually caught by the ragtag \$55 million Oakland A's in the last game of the season. The Rangers collapse

was complete when they lost a one-game wild card playoff to the Baltimore Orioles, who hadn't even whiffed the playoffs since 1997.

Of course, the Orioles were the biggest gut check of all, losing a crushing Game 3 in the American League Divisional Series to the New York Yankees on back-to-back home runs by benchwarmer Raúl Ibañez.

I haven't even touched NFL referee debacles, Bradley's botched boxing victory over Pacquiao or three separate postseason incidents involving the St. Louis Cardinals.

Live your lives and watch your sports while you can, folks. The end is coming, and it's all been laid out for us in frighteningly clear terms. Hold your loved ones close and your autographed jerseys closer.

As for me? I'm going to hoard non-perishable goods like it's Y2K all over again.

CONTACT Chase Kiddy at breezeports@gmail.com.



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